

Fourteenth Loksabha

Session : 7

Date : 21-02-2006

Participants : Dasgupta Shri Gurudas, Deo Shri V. Kishore Chandra S., Deo Shri V. Kishore Chandra S., Malhotra Prof. Vijay Kumar, Chatterjee Shri Somnath, Mukherjee Shri Pranab

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Title : Discussion on motion regarding report of the Joint Committee on the Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005 – extension of time (Motion adopted).

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (PARVATIPURAM): Sir, I beg to move:

“That this House do extend the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest rights) Bill, 2005 up to the last day of the Budget Session 2006.”

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That this House do extend the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest rights) Bill, 2005 up to the last day of the Budget Session 2006.”

... (*Interruptions*)

प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा (दक्षिण दिल्ली) : मैं इस पर कुछ कहना चाहता हूँ। इन्होंने कहा है, “last day of the present Budget Session.”

MR. SPEAKER: It should have been the first day of the next Session. This is my mistake and I stand corrected.

प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा : मैं यह कह रहा था कि यह काफी महत्वपूर्ण बिल है। करोड़ों आदिवासियों का प्रश्न है। उन्हें निकाला जा रहा है इसलिए यह बात लगातार कई दिनों से कही जा रही है कि इस बिल को जल्दी पारित करना चाहिए। इस बजट सत्र का जब पहला भाग समाप्त होगा, उसके 15 दिनों के बाद दूसरा भाग शुरू होगा... (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप बैठिए। Why do you become impatient?

प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा : आदिवासियों पर जिस तरह से खतरा बना हुआ है, वह काफी गम्भीर मसला है। जिस तरह से इस बिल पर देरी हो रही है, इसका मतलब यह अगले सत्र में ही पास हो सकेगा...(व्यवधान) What is he doing? I do not agree with this. क्या मुझे इतना भी कहने का अधिकार नहीं है?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Mistry, please take your seat. The Chairman is there. If necessary, he will respond and you need not respond.

प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा : पिछले सत्र में कहा गया था कि यह आगामी सत्र के शुरू में आएगा। उसके पहले वाले सत्र में कहा गया था कि अगले सत्र में पास किया जाएगा। अब यह कहा जा रहा है कि यह बिल अगले सत्र में लेंगे।

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, Prof. Malhotra, you have made your point.

प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा : मेरा कहना है कि इस बजट सत्र का पहला भाग जब समाप्त होगा, तब दूसरे भाग के पहले 15 दिनों का समय होगा। बीच के उन 15 दिनों में समिति में इस पर विचार करके, बजट सत्र के दूसरे भाग में इस बिल को लाकर पास कराया जाए, नहीं तो करोड़ों आदिवासियों के साथ अन्याय होगा और लगातार अन्याय होता चला जाएगा।...(व्यवधान)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, the report should be presented on the first day of the second part of this Budget Session.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (PURI): The Government has no concern for the tribal people.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (PANSKURA): Considering the importance of the Bill and considering that the tribals are in a very, very bad condition...

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody is naturally concerned for the tribals as you are. Kindly let me regulate the proceedings of the House.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Will you take your seat, please?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Time should not be so extended.

MR. SPEAKER: Will you please take your seat? This is another difficulty. Even when the Chair wants to say something, you will not allow him. Everybody understands the importance of this Bill. I take it that the hon. Members of the Committee, who are very responsible Members of the House, have looked into this matter. Knowing the importance of the Bill, they have asked for extension for a longer period because many representations are coming or are expected to come. Therefore, they have to do justice. They wanted extension for a longer time. I have made a request that it should be done within time. All of you are concerned and I have no manner of doubt about it. On behalf of the House, may I request them to try to respond to this?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There should not be any further extension.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : Sir, I most respectfully submit that I would have agreed with Prof. Malhotra readily that in the second leg, it would have come. Unfortunately, Prof. Malhotra will remember that during this period, recess before the second leg is only for two weeks, all the Standing Committees will have to consider the Demands for Grants. Quite a large number of Members would be common in those Committees. Therefore, if we give such a constrained time frame, it may not be possible for them to do justice. Therefore, taking note of the concerns that this is an important piece of legislation, if all of you kindly agree, what has been stated in the original Motion should be accepted. During this period, in some States, elections will be held, and many of the Members will be in their respective States. What I want is that the consideration of the Bill should not be the victim of the constraint of time. Keeping this in view, you may kindly reconsider it.

श्री अनंत गंगाराम गीते (रत्नागिरि) : यह हर राज्य की समस्या है।... (व्यवधान) इसे इसी सत्र में पास किया जाए।

प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा : यह कोशिश कर ले, अगर रिसेस के बीच में रात को देर तक बैठकर इसे कर लें। Please do not extend it. As early as possible, इसे कर लें।

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure, all parties are represented in this. We have a responsible Chairman. All are responsible.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to state that the concurrence of the Rajya Sabha was actually given on the last day of the Winter Session. Subsequently, during the short period, we have already had three sittings of the Committee. We have examined three Ministries. Hon. Members will appreciate the fact that these concern the tribals all over the country. There are several forest dwellers who are not

covered under the ambit of this Bill. Several apprehensions have been expressed by different sections of people. I think, there will be a unanimous view of this House that there should be a detailed investigation and examination of every clause before the Bill is presented in this House. This has been promised to the tribals since 1927. In 1980, the Forest Conservation Act was brought. That also promised settlement of rights to the tribals, to the forest dwellers, which has not been done till today. This Government has taken up this issue.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: All parties are there. It is a sensitive matter.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO : I appreciate the fact that all parties are cooperating. ... (*Interruptions*) This is an issue which was mentioned by the President in his Presidential Address. We have been giving priority to this issue. Our leadership has been taking it up. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The problems are of the Chairman. We have to face the problem as you do.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO : Though we have asked for extension till the end of this Session, yet I assure the House that if it is possible, we shall try our best to give the Report even before that.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That this House do extend the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005 upto the last day of the Budget Session 2006.”

The motion was adopted.

I have no manner of doubt that every section of this House is extremely keen to look after the interests of the tribals. Therefore, I am sure, there will be no deliberate delay in the matter. All the parties are represented in the Committee. I have no doubt about it.
